



Legislative *Perspective*

June/July 2005

Volume 13 Issue 1

Spring Revenues Surge to Historic Levels

Fueled by unprecedented strength in revenue growth for the spring months, the year-end balance for the current fiscal year is expected to top \$200 million, twice the amount estimated just three months ago during the legislative session. The table on page 2 summarizes fiscal years 2005 and 2006, showing the original estimates at the end of the 2005 legislative session and the current estimate after factoring in the surge in revenues this spring. With one month to go in the fiscal year, the General Fund is \$100.3 million ahead of the projection through May, which effectively doubles the anticipated year-end balance. Through 11 months, FY 2005 base revenues are an astonishing 15 percent over the previous year.

Rolling those numbers through to fiscal year 2006 will change the estimate from a slight deficit of \$5.6 million to a positive year-end balance of \$160.8 million. However, there is a long way to go before fiscal year 2006 completely unfolds. There is some cautionary speculation that the surge in revenues has been fueled to a significant degree by the construction industry, much like the late 90s were fueled by the high-tech boom, whose subsequent crash was sudden and deep. At this time, however, the state budget situation is the best it has been in over three years, and the budget decisions to be addressed during the 2006 legislative session could be much less problematic than originally anticipated.

More important to the big picture is the distinct possibility that the state's so-called structural deficit (the inability to support ongoing expenditures with ongoing revenues) is actually disappearing. Of course, the design all along was to keep a tight lid on expenditure growth, and hope that economic performance would replace the need for one-time revenues. As the table below illustrates, that is, in fact, what is now occurring.

Diminishing Structural Deficits

FY 2002 actuals

Ongoing Revenues	\$1,690.3	Deficit covered with surplus carryover and one-time transfers from tobacco funds, Capitol restoration funds and Permanent Building funds.
Ongoing Expenditures	<u>1,932.9</u>	
Structural Deficit	(\$242.6)	

FY 2003 actuals

Ongoing Revenues	\$1,766.4	Deficit covered with transfers from Budget Stabilization Fund, Permanent Building Funds, Millennium Funds, Water Pollution Control and several smaller funds.
Ongoing Expenditures	<u>1,951.6</u>	
Structural Deficit	(\$185.2)	

FY 2004 actuals

Ongoing Revenues	\$1,814.8	Deficit covered with temporary sales tax and cigarette tax, along with one-time federal flexible grants.
Ongoing Expenditures	<u>1,987.8</u>	
Structural Deficit	(\$173.0)	

FY 2005 Current Estimate

Ongoing Revenues	\$2,073.5	Deficit covered with surplus carryover and temporary sales tax.
Ongoing Expenditures	<u>2,098.3</u>	
Structural Deficit	(\$24.8)	

FY 2006 Preliminary Estimate

Ongoing Revenues	\$2,171.2	Deficit covered with surplus carryover.
Ongoing Expenditures	<u>2,178.6</u>	
Structural Deficit	(\$7.4)	

Staff Contact: Jeff Youtz

General Fund Budget Update

FISCAL YEAR 2005 ESTIMATE

REVENUES	Sine Die Estimate	Current Estimate
Beginning Balance	\$ 100,244,100	\$ 100,244,100
FY 2005 DFM Revised Estimate (7.8%)	1,973,727,000	1,973,727,000
Revenues in excess of projection through May	0	100,300,000
Increase Sales Tax from 5% to 6%	183,138,000	183,138,000
Transfer to IDWR Rev Dev Fund	(21,300,000)	(21,300,000)
Transfer to Budget Stabilization Fund	(20,971,000)	(20,971,000)
All other revenue adjustments	(3,137,600)	(3,137,600)
TOTAL REVENUES	\$2,211,700,500	\$2,312,000,500
EXPENDITURES		
Original Appropriations	\$2,082,138,300	\$2,082,138,300
Reappropriations	1,820,700	1,820,700
Plus one-time salary increase (1%)	5,001,000	5,001,000
Supplemental Appropriations	25,479,100	25,479,100
Budgeted Reversions	(3,424,300)	(3,424,300)
TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES	\$ 2,111,014,800	\$ 2,111,014,800
ESTIMATED ENDING BALANCE	\$ 100,685,700	\$ 200,985,700

FISCAL YEAR 2006 ESTIMATE

REVENUES	Sine Die Estimate	Current Estimate
Beginning Balance	\$ 100,685,700	\$ 200,985,700
FY 2006 DFM estimate (5.1%)	2,076,618,000	2,179,276,000
HB 400a - Sales tax increase (one month)	13,448,000	13,448,000
Sales tax exemptions (R&D equip, energy gener)	(8,125,000)	(8,125,000)
Econ Recov Fund transfer (\$20.6m from cig tax)	0	0
Endowment fix	(4,600,000)	(4,600,000)
Transfer to IDWR Revolving Dev Fund	(3,000,000)	(3,000,000)
Transfer to Budget Stabilization Fund	0	(22,442,000)
All Other adjustments	276,100	276,100
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 2,175,302,800	\$ 2,355,818,800
EXPENDITURES		
FY 2006 Beginning Base	\$ 2,098,336,000	\$ 2,098,336,000
Miscellaneous inflationary & fixed cost increases	15,696,900	15,696,900
Medicaid statutory increases	27,628,200	27,628,200
Public Schools statutory increases	20,446,600	20,446,600
1% CEC (one-time) agencies & public schools	surplus contingency	14,072,800
Program Enhancements	18,820,600	18,820,600
Total Expenditures	\$ 2,180,928,300	\$ 2,195,001,100
Estimated Ending Balance	\$ (5,625,500)*	\$ 160,817,700

* The Budget Stabilization Fund covers deficits up to 0.5%, or approx. \$11 million

Legislative Council Appoints Interim Committee Members

At a meeting held May 25 in Boise, the Legislative Council appointed legislators to serve on six interim committees authorized during the 2005 legislative session. In addition, Pro Tem Geddes and Speaker Newcomb have appointed members to new task forces, one to look into Capitol restoration options and the other to study economic development opportunities relating to the biosciences, agriculture, imaging, power, energy and nanosciences.

Cervical Cancer Elimination

Sen. Joyce Broadsword, Co-chair	Rep. Bob Ring, Co-chair
Sen. Kate Kelly	Rep. Donna Pence

Energy, Environment and Technology

Sen. Brent Hill, Co-chair	Rep. George Eskridge, Co-chair
Sen. Patti Anne Lodge	Rep. Maxine Bell
Sen. Tom Gannon	Rep. Steve Smylie
Sen. Curt McKenzie	Rep. Joseph Cannon
Sen. Gerry Sweet	Rep. Ken Andrus
Sen. Clint Stennett	Rep. Bob Nonini
Sen. Elliot Werk	Rep. Elaine Smith

Human Trafficking

Sen. Denton Darrington, Co-chair	Rep. Debbie Field, Co-chair
Sen. Dick Compton	Rep. Carlos Bilbao
Sen. Edgar Malepeai	Rep. Donna Boe

State Employee Compensation

Sen. Dean Cameron, Co-chair	Rep. Bob Schaefer, Co-chair
Sen. John Andreason	Rep. Larry Bradford
Sen. Joe Stegner	Rep. Ken Roberts
Sen. Mike Jorgenson	Rep. Rich Wills
Sen. John McGee	Rep. Jana Kemp
Sen. Bert Marley	Rep. Anne Pasley-Stuart
Sen. Kate Kelly	Rep. Shirley Ringo

Property Tax

Sen. Shawn Keough, Co-chair	Rep. Dennis Lake, Co-chair
Sen. Monty Pearce	Rep. Bill Deal
Sen. John Goedde	Rep. Mike Moyle
Sen. Brad Little	Rep. Gary Collins
Sen. Tim Corder	Rep. Eric Anderson
Sen. Elliot Werk	Rep. Wendy Jaquet
Sen. David Langhorst	Rep. George Sayler

Membership of all interim committees, meeting minutes and a calendar of scheduled meetings are all available on the Legislature's Web site at:

[Interim Committees](#)

[Legislative Calendar](#)

Continued on Page 4

Natural Resources

Sen. Don Burtenshaw, Co-chair	Rep. Dell Raybould, Co-chair
Sen. Gary Schroeder	Rep. Jim Clark
Sen. Stan Williams	Rep. Bert Stevenson
Sen. Chuck Coiner	Rep. Scott Bedke
Sen. Clint Stennett	Rep. Wendy Jaquet
Sen. Brad Little (Ad Hoc)	Rep. Jack Barraclough (Ad Hoc)
Sen. Skip Brandt (Ad Hoc)	Rep. Mike Moyle (Ad Hoc)
	Rep. Pete Nielsen (Ad Hoc)
	Rep. Donna Pence (Ad Hoc)

Biotechnology Task Force

Sen. Gary Schroeder, Co-chair	Rep. Doug Jones, Co-chair
Sen. Hal Bunderson	Rep. Darrell Bolz
Sen. Chuck Coiner	Rep. Ann Rydalch
Sen. Russell Fulcher	Rep. Frank Henderson
Sen. Bert Marley	Rep. Nicole LeFavour

Capitol Restoration Task Force

Sen. Robert Geddes, Co-chair	Rep. Bruce Newcomb, Co-chair
Sen. Bart Davis	Rep. Lawrence Denney
Sen. Joe Stegner	Rep. Mike Moyle
Sen. Brad Little	Rep. Julie Ellsworth
Sen. Mike Burkett	Rep. Wendy Jaquet
Pam Ahrens (Ad Hoc)	
Carl Bianchi (Ad Hoc)	

In addition to the long-standing Health Care Task Force, the Pro Tem and Speaker have appointed legislators to serve on the Biotechnology Task Force and the Capitol Restoration Task Force during this interim.

Health Care Task Force Meets

The Health Care Task Force held a meeting on June 1, 2005, in the Idaho Statehouse. Phyllis Stephenson, Department of Insurance, provided an update on the benchmark survey, which is compiled by the department using program information from three insurance companies in Idaho. Lois Bauer, Idaho Commission on Aging, explained the changes in Medicare benefits and costs that may result due to new provisions of Medicare Part D. Patti Campbell, Department of Health and Welfare, discussed the status of the Idaho Access Card and the CHIP plans.

An overview of market trends in health insurance in Idaho was provided by Jerry Dworak, Blue Cross of Idaho, and Norm Varin, Regence BlueShield of Idaho. Laren Walker, AmeriBen Solutions, updated the task force on the current status of the High Risk Reinsurance Pool in terms of claims, costs and administration. Shad Priest, Department of Insurance, gave a general overview of the Gem Plan, which is a type of health benefits plan offered by counties in the state. Bob Seehusen, Idaho Medical Association, discussed the conclusions of a mental health task force and outlined priorities for mental health care services in Idaho. The Health Care Task Force assigned a subcommittee to study these priorities and report back at its next meeting.

The Health Care Task Force plans to meet again on July 8, 2005, in the Senate Majority Caucus Room.

Staff Contact: Caralee Lambert

Capitol Restoration Task Force Holds First Meeting

The Capitol Restoration Task Force had its inaugural meeting on May 24, 2005, at the Statehouse in Boise. Under the direction of Co-chair Senate Pro Tem Robert Geddes, members reviewed the charge of the task force, which is to study the Capitol restoration master plan, the development of related buildings and Capitol Mall properties, the possible enlargement of the existing Statehouse, and to make recommendations allowing the Legislature to adopt concurrent resolutions during the 2006 legislative session to address the financing and implementation of the Capitol restoration.

Carl Bianchi reviewed the recent history of Capitol restoration efforts. These efforts have included the creation of the Capitol Commission in 1998, the adoption of a Capitol master plan in 2000 and legislative approval of the master plan. In 2005 the Legislature passed House Bill 386, which provided that, beginning in FY 2007, the recent cigarette tax increase (roughly \$20 million in annual revenue) will be used for the repair, remodel and restoration of the Statehouse and state facilities pertaining to the Capitol restoration, until restoration is adequately funded as determined by the director of the Department of Administration.

Senator Joe Stegner presented a concept of adding wings to the current Capitol Building. This idea would provide significant additional square footage for the House and Senate for hearing rooms and office space and would result in improved access.

Following discussion of Senator Stegner's concept, the task force asked Director Pam Ahrens, Department of Administration, to report back at the next meeting with preliminary answers to wings-related issues, including an estimated cost range, construction timelines and potential impact on Statehouse operations, style options and architectural integrity, and preliminary drawings illustrating the wings footprint.

In addition to the wings concept, the task force discussed other restoration options, including a campus approach that would include the use of existing facilities on the Capitol Mall.

Finally, Co-chair Geddes asked staff to identify other states undergoing Capitol restorations. The task force agreed to visit a small number of other states to investigate their Capitol restoration efforts.

Staff Contact: Eric Milstead

Members of the Capitol Restoration Task Force will visit other states this summer to learn how they handled Capitol restorations, as the task force formulates recommendations that address the financing and implementation of Idaho's Capitol restoration.

JFAC Tours Pocatello Area

The Joint Finance Appropriations Committee held its summer interim meeting June 15 through 17 in Pocatello. Budget and Policy Analysis Supervisor Jeff Youtz discussed FY 2005's strong finish and the year-end balance, then updated JFAC on how FY 2006 and 2007 will be impacted by the larger-than-expected FY 2005 ending balance. The committee also received updates from the Department of Commerce and Labor, GARVEE projects in Eastern Idaho and the Department of Fish & Game. Legislative Audits Supervisor Ray Ineck and Managing Auditor Don Berg discussed the Department of Health & Welfare FY 2004 audit. JFAC members toured the Pocatello Women's Prison, Idaho State Veteran's Home, Marsh Valley High School (where Senator Bert Marley teaches), Lava Hot Springs, The Oregon/California Trail Interpretative Center, Bear Lake State Park and toured the new Stephens Performing Arts Center at Idaho State University.

Staff Contact: Jeff Youtz

Natural Resources Interim Committee Meets

The Natural Resources Interim Committee conducted its first meeting of the interim in Boise on June 10. During the meeting, the committee was briefed on the status of implementation of legislation passed during the 2005 session. A final asset purchase and sale agreement regarding the Bell Rapids purchase was completed May 10, 2005, with closing scheduled for June 15. In terms of the Bureau of Reclamation water exchange, applications are in process for the determination of eligibility for the exchange.

The Farm Service Agency addressed the group about progress being made with the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. A proposal was submitted to the USDA in April 2005 and FSA's national office responded in May with a request for clarification relating to a number of components of the proposal, many of which are technical in nature. The group anticipates submitting a redrafted proposal by the end of this June. In addition, the agency informed the committee that the first draft of the programmatic environmental assessment, which reviews all environmental impacts of the program, was submitted for their comments.

Director Karl Dreher, Department of Water Resources, provided the committee with information relating to projected expenses for monitoring conditions of the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer, modeling and accounting relating to the appropriation passed during the 2005 session. In addition, the group received an update regarding the status of the 2005 water supply as compared to 2004. Director Dreher provided the group with a summary of a number of basins throughout the state. Despite the spring rains, a number of the basins have continued to have precipitation below average, snow/water equivalents below average and early runoffs. The rainfall did benefit storage in that very few irrigation diversions have occurred to date. The department also provided the group with an update relating to various curtailment orders and mitigation efforts.

Idaho Department of Water Resource personnel briefed the committee about the managed recharge action plan and strategies for addressing institutional barriers to managed recharge. Based on various site studies it has been determined that fine grained soils present a challenge for successful, long-term managed recharge and that soil clogging is the leading detrimental factor affecting recharge capacity. The use of natural basins as originally outlined has a low potential for success. The plan is to design and construct infiltration basins with known recharge capacities. The department went on to present several specific proposed projects for fiscal year 2006. The department indicated that ground water-to-surface water conversions should be considered part of the recharge program due to similar hydrologic benefits and also presented a number of specific conversion projects for future consideration. The department also informed committee members about domestic water use policy and an action plan for addressing domestic use issues and problems.

County and city representatives also testified, including the City of Eagle, which has recently enacted an ordinance requiring developers to bring sufficient water into the system to deal with the requirements of the development. The committee concluded the meeting with an update relating to the Snake River Water Rights Agreement of 2004 and a discussion about a recent federal court ruling out of Portland relating to salmon and operations of the Columbia River's hydroelectric dam system.

Despite the spring rains, a number of the Idaho basins have continued to have precipitation below average, snow/water equivalents below average and early runoffs. The rainfall did benefit storage in that very few irrigation diversions have occurred to date.

Staff Contact: Katharine Gerrity

Census Bureau Plans Ahead for Next Redistricting

The U.S. Census Bureau sent Cathy McCully, chief of the bureau's Redistricting Data Office, and two regional representatives from Seattle to Boise on June 7 for an informational meeting at the Statehouse. Participants included Secretary of State Ben Ysursa, Representative Donna Pence, Representative Frances Field, and representatives from the Attorney General's office, the State Data Center at the Commerce and Labor Department, the Department of Water Resources, political parties and the Legislative Services Office.

Chief McCully began by presenting an overview of the history of the Census Bureau's role in state redistricting efforts since the 1965 Voting Rights Act. She continued with an explanation of technological advances, such as GPS handheld devices now being used by the Census Bureau, and improvements to the Map Tiger program. The biggest change will be the replacement of the Census Long Form survey by the newer American Community Survey. The ACS will collect the same type of data (economic, household, etc.) as the long form did, but it is a continuous survey sent out to a sampling of the population all the time, instead of once every ten years, so the data should be kept more current. Audience members asked questions regarding the impacts of the Census on school district boundaries and funding. More information can be found at a Web site maintained by the Census Bureau's Redistricting Data Office: <http://www.census.gov/rdo/www>

Staff Contact: Kristin Ford

Legislative Librarian Kristin Ford, Idaho's liaison with the U.S. Census Bureau, will monitor activities leading up to legislative redistricting following the 2010 Census and coordinate staff assistance to the constitutionally created Commission for Reapportionment.

Energy, Environment and Technology Interim Committee Underway

The Energy, Environment and Technology Interim Committee held its initial meeting on June 13 in Boise. Robert Hoppie, Department of Water Resources Energy Division, presented information about a potential update of the State Energy Plan, which was last updated in 1982. Representative Ann Rydalch and Robert Neilson of the Idaho National Laboratory told the committee about projects in the alternative energy field and other undertakings of the Idaho National Laboratory.

Sarah Bigger, Environmental Science and Public Policy Research Institute of Boise State University, presented information about an upcoming symposium on energy policy being offered by the institute. Commissioner Marsha Smith, Idaho Public Utilities Commission, discussed electricity regulation in Idaho and the nation, as well as information about energy facility siting in the Western states. Finally, the committee reviewed draft legislation on energy facility siting, which Senator Stennett had prepared during the last session but had not introduced.

The committee plans to hold its next meeting on August 8 in Boise. Members will take up the issue of energy facility siting and will follow up on the progress being made on revising the State Energy Plan. They will also hear from Karl Tueller, Department of Commerce and Labor, about new innovations in the technology industry in Idaho.

Staff Contact: Mike Nugent

Legislative Audits Update

Legislative Audits has released 15 reports and the 2004 Single Audit Report since the first of January 2005. The reports covering FY 04, contained a total of 24 findings and recommendations. Reports without findings and recommendations included the Commission on Aging, Idaho Public Television, Board of Accountancy, Payments in Lieu of Taxes, Secretary of State, Division of Veterans Services, Commission on Hispanic Affairs and the Superintendent of Public Instruction/Department of Education.

The 2004 Single Audit Report reviewed \$1.9 billion in expenditures of federal funds by state agencies and included findings and recommendations from the individual reports issued throughout the year, as well as any follow-up status on prior findings and recommendations.

The reports with findings and recommendations are summarized as follows:

State Liquor Dispensary

- ▶ The dispensary sells some products that it may not have legislative authority to sell.
- ▶ The 2 percent surcharge required by Idaho Code is not assessed on some items, resulting in the dispensary not collecting \$11,300.
- ▶ The dispensary does not have a procedure to determine changes in local option sales tax rates, resulting in \$25,000 that was not collected.
- ▶ State tax is collected from the sale of non-liquor items, but not deposited in the State Tax Account.

Food Quality Assurance Institute

- ▶ Decentralized operations contributed to errors and internal control weaknesses.

DEQ-Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Funds

- ▶ The department's fund accounting system is cumbersome and contributes to accounting errors.
- ▶ The department has not invested available cash in the State Treasurer's long-term investment pool to increase earnings. Such investment could increase interest earnings \$600,000 for each 1 percent increase in interest rate.
- ▶ Documentation in the loan files was not always adequate to support loan transactions or decisions.

Office of the State Treasurer

- ▶ Internal controls are inadequate to ensure the accuracy of all transactions in the Local Government Investment Pool.

Department of Administration

- ▶ The Idaho Special Indemnity Fund made no documented effort to collect assessments and penalties that totaled \$365,000 for the past three completed assessment years.

Copies of all audit reports are available upon request to Legislative Audits by calling 334-4832. Executive summaries of audit reports for fiscal years 2000 through 2004 are available on the Legislature's Web site: [Executive Audit Summaries](#)

Continued on Page 9

Department of Administration Audit Findings, Continued

- ▶ The Division of Purchasing does not adequately monitor vendors to ensure that all required fees are remitted. An estimated 35 percent to 60 percent of the vendors did not submit the required fees.
- ▶ The State Record Center's billing and accounting system does not provide accurate billing and financial information and under current procedures and policies, additional space will continually be needed to store the 300 boxes of records that are added each month.
- ▶ Some accounting procedures, documentation and controls are inadequate to ensure accurate information.

Department of Health and Welfare

- ▶ Contract monitoring efforts are inadequate, resulting in errors, omissions and delays in recovering Medicaid costs from private insurance resources.
- ▶ The department has not yet taken steps to pursue absent parents for reimbursement of ongoing Medicaid costs.
- ▶ Applications for and redeterminations of Medicaid eligibility are not processed within the required time frames.
- ▶ Eligibility continues to be improperly determined in one-third of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) clients tested.
- ▶ Enforcement of administrative rules for Medicaid transportation providers needs improvement.
- ▶ No procedures exist to identify or pursue child support debts from the estates of deceased noncustodial parents.
- ▶ Time frames are missed for providing services to interstate child support cases.
- ▶ The department improperly used more than \$1.8 million of the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) grant funds for inpatient treatment costs and child care services.
- ▶ Contracting for information technology services is not cost effective when compared to hiring state staff. Audit staff estimate that the department could fill 35 to 40 contractor positions with state staff and save in excess of \$2 million annually.

Contracting for information technology services is not cost effective when compared to hiring state staff. A recent audit estimates the Department of Health and Welfare could save in excess of \$2 million annually by filling 35 to 40 contractor positions with state staff.

Audit Staff Update

Legislative Audits welcomes new staff member **Shannon Thomas**. Shannon has an accounting degree from Boise State University and an MBA in accounting from Northwest Nazarene University. Before joining the Legislative Audit staff, he spent three years as a business analyst for Hewlett Packard.

Staff Contact: Ray Ineck

JLOC/OPE Update

The next meeting of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee (JLOC) is set for Monday, October 17, starting at 10:00 a.m. At this meeting the Office of Performance Evaluations will present results of two evaluations currently underway:

Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind (ISDB)

Project Team: Paul Headlee (team lead), Ned Parrish, Brook Smith and Courtney Haines (intern)

This evaluation will address ISDB's statutory role, model of service delivery, enrollment trends, revenues and expenditures and stakeholder satisfaction. Methods include surveying and interviewing school district officials, parents, ISDB staff and other states with similar schools for students who are sensory impaired. The evaluation will also address the educational benefits of assistive technologies, such as cochlear implants.

State Efforts to Address Substance Abuse

Project Team: Chris Shoop (team lead), AJ Burns, Rachel Johnstone and Misti Rutledge (intern)

With a focus on treatment, this evaluation will concentrate on the state's activities to address substance abuse. To complete this study, OPE will work with a number of agencies, including the Department of Health and Welfare, the Department of Correction, the Department of Juvenile Corrections and the Idaho Judiciary. The evaluation will include a review of best practice models for providing substance abuse treatment services.

Staff Contact: Rakesh Mohan

The Office of Performance Evaluations is in the process of conducting evaluations of the Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind and of state efforts to address substance abuse for release to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee in October.

Proposed Agency Rules

Building Safety, Division of

- 07.01.06 2005 Edition of National Electrical Code
- 07.02.06 Seismic Strapping Plumbing Code
- 07.07.01 Installation of Heating, Ventilation & AC Systems

Education, Board of

- 08.02.02 Uniformity/Manual Adopted w/o Rejected Section
- 08.02.02 Uniformity/Allow Certified Teachers Computer Cert.
- 08.02.04 Chapter Rewrite Re S1444/2004 Charter Schools
- 08.02.04 Charter Schools/Chapter Repeal Re: S1444 in 04
- 08.03.01 Petition Process, Public Charter School Commission

Environmental Quality, Department of

- 58.01.01 Rules for Control of Air Pollution in Idaho
- 58.01.02 Water Quality Stds/Wastewater Treatment, 0501& 02
- 58.01.02 Water Quality Standards/Wastewater Treatment 0502
- 58.01.11 Ground Water Quality Rule

Health & Welfare, Department of

- 16.03.16 Access to Health Insurance Program

Lands, Department of

- 20.03.08 Easements on State Owned Lands/Updates Costs

Transportation Department, Idaho

- 39.03.11 Overlegal Permittee Responsibility/ Travel Restrictions
- 39.03.45 Sale of No Longer Useful or Usable Real Property

Staff Contact: Charmi Arregui

Staff Update

Susan Bennion to Retire

Principal Legislative Analyst **Susan Bennion** is planning to retire from the Legislative Services Office August 1 after serving the Idaho Legislature for 36 years.

On April 14, 1969, Susan began working for the Legislative Council for the princely sum of \$600 per month. On that day, Robert Dole gave his first speech before the U.S. Congress, Barbara Streisand and Katharine Hepburn tied for *Best Actress* at the Academy Awards, the Beatles were still together as a group recording songs, the Vietnam War was still being fought, and the United States had yet to land a man on the Moon.

Among other highlights over the next 36 years, Susan witnessed the Legislature's change from biennial to annual sessions; participated in the massive reorganization of state government; saw the Model Penal Code passed (and repealed very quickly thereafter!); and witnessed thousands of different legislators legislate and five different individuals hold the Governor's Office.

Susan became an expert in the school funding formula, learned about the complexities of the Department of Health and Welfare, understood election law backwards and forwards, was the Legislature's intern coordinator and, for a brief time, helped set up a legislative library. She is well known for her expertise in legislative reapportionment and congressional redistricting, having assisted in reapportionment and redistricting efforts in the 1970s, 1980s, 1990s and in 2001.

To many legislators, Susan has been legendary for being able to help them find practical and easily understood solutions to particularly complex problems. A former supervisor called her "the most competent woman in state government, bar none."

Paige Parker to Join Research Staff

Paige Parker will join the Legislative Services Office as a senior legislative analyst in the Research and Legislation section on August 1, filling the opening on staff created by the **Susan Bennion's** retirement.

Paige graduated from Idaho's Jerome High School, then received bachelor degrees in both political science and communications from Washington State University, a master's in political science from Bowling Green State University in Ohio and a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Florida. He went on to earn a law degree magna cum laude from the University of Idaho.

A partner in the Moore Baskin & Parker law firm since 1995, Paige has presented arguments before the Idaho Supreme Court on four occasions. His previous experience includes interning for former Idaho Attorney General Jim Jones, teaching university-level political science and serving in the Peace Corps. He currently is a member of the Governing Council of the Alternate Dispute Resolution Section of the Idaho State Bar, serves on the board of directors of the Idaho Tennis Association and is a former board member of the Idaho Humane Society and the Boise Racquet and Swim Club.

Staff Contact: Mike Nugent

Susan Bennion will retire and Paige Parker will assume her duties on August 1. With just five staff members to assist legislators with bill drafting and research, the Idaho Legislature has one of the smallest, yet most efficient and professional drafting teams in the nation.

Legislative Perspective

An Internet Newsletter —

Legislative Services Office

Idaho State Legislature

State Capitol - Room 108

P.O. Box 83720

Boise, Idaho 83720-0054

Phone: 208/334-2475

Fax: 208/334-2125

URL: legislature.idaho.gov